



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE February 26, 2007

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#### **Senate Bill 1192 - An Act Concerning Child Day Care Services, Youth Camps and the Emergency Distribution of Potassium Iodide Tablets in Certain Facilities**

The Department of Public Health supports Senate Bill 1192.

The purpose of this Bill is to clarify the distinctions among different types of child day care, youth camp and license exempt - programs, to increase the term of a child day care license from two to four years to reduce paperwork, to prevent a child day care licensee whose license has been revoked from reapplying for a license for one year, and to require nursing homes, child day care facilities and youth camps to provide potassium iodide, with parent permission as appropriate, to staff, residents or minors in the event of a declared nuclear emergency.

Section 1, lines 10-12, seeks to expand the definition of a group day care home to include programs that meet the definition of a family day care home but operate in a setting other than a private family home. This will ensure appropriate regulatory oversight of these child day care programs.

Connecticut General Statutes Section 19a-77(b)(3), which currently exempts recreation operations from child day care licensure, is vague and open to multiple interpretations. Lines 44-49 of this Bill more clearly specify those programs that are significantly different from child day care programs, were never intended to be licensed as child day care programs and therefore should be exempt from licensure. In line 47, "operated exclusively for" should be replaced with "that offer exclusively". This bill continues to require child day care licensure of those programs that historically have been subjected to regulation by the department.

Sections 2 and 4 propose to reduce paperwork for child day care licensure renewals by moving from a two-year renewal cycle to a four-year cycle and seek to eliminate the initial six-month temporary permits that child day care center and group day care home applicants are issued. The frequency of on-site inspections by department and local officials will not be impacted by these changes. The annualized cost of a license will remain the same.

Section 3, lines 136 -138, will require child day care licensees, whose license has been revoked to wait for at least one year before reapplying for a new license, to allow time for remediation.

Section 5 clarifies that potassium iodide distribution is mandatory on the part of licensed entities. The Department recommends further clarification of the language of this bill to require programs to attempt to obtain written permission but not require participation on the part of the resident, staff member, or parent or guardian of a minor.

Section 6 establishes three years as the minimum age requirement for children participating in a youth camp, and modifies the definition of a youth camp to mean those programs that only operate during school vacations (including summer break) and weekends. Programs that serve infants and toddlers would be required to obtain a child day care license and comply with regulations specific to the needs of children under three years of age such as diaper changing, staff/child ratios, supervision, provisions for napping, etc. Line 267 should be changed to add "... shall comply with C.G.S., Sections 19a-77 through 19a-87e" to assure appropriate licensure.

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Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.



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